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## REPORT

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SPACE LIMITATIONS, HOUSING SHORTAGE  
SLOW KATOWICE EXPANSION

Each year, Katowice is becoming more important as a center of key industries. Various state offices, enterprises, institutions, and establishments requested land for the construction of 102 administrative buildings, bureaus, etc., within the Six-Year Plan. At the end of 1948, the number of organized trade union members was 111,841.

Katowice is an important center of general and vocational training. The number of students is over 25,000, including commuters. The number of students in vocational schools alone is over 8,600. The Slask Schools of Technology are the largest in Europe.

The city is also one of the most important communications junctions in the country. Railroad lines of international importance cross from various directions, and highways, airways, and telecommunication lines converge here.

The yearly influx of population is estimated at 7,000 persons. Great concern is already felt for the housing of future inhabitants of Katowice since even now there is a shortage of thousands of rooms.

Other cities of the same area could house at least a half million inhabitants, but in Katowice housing conditions for even the present population are extremely congested. Mining activity, which has reactivated the city, also limits its expansion. All buildings will have to be limited to the pillar protected area and will, of necessity, have to be built up instead of out. The undermined areas will be investigated to determine whether there is any available space remaining for light structures. Residential areas will eventually be moved out into the suburbs, but no suburban areas can be developed until adequate transportation is provided. The most important problem at the moment is electrification of the railroad junction.

Next in importance is the problem of school buildings for the rapidly increasing number of children. It is estimated that the number of school-age children in the city alone will be 32,000 in the coming year. At present, 100 schoolrooms are needed; by the end of the 6-year period this figure will be doubled.

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Plans for an east-west highway and a north-south highway to divert traffic away from the city proper are under way.

Plans have also been worked out for a university settlement in Ligota, but more ground is needed. The plans include a School of Business Administration, modern hospitals, and public utility buildings. A workers' settlement to house several thousand people is being built in Kuszutka. However, convenient transportation, a network of roads, and water, gas, and light installations which will require a great amount of time, labor and resources are needed.

Plans for the development of the only available area in midtown, known as the Thiele Winklera on General Swierczynskiego Street, are being considered. The plans include a new school building, a 300-bed tourist hotel, and a 600-bed municipal hotel. The present number of hotel rooms has been entirely inadequate for the number of transients.

Achievement of the Six-Year Plan will demand great effort from the worker in the Slask area. Katowice and the central coal basin are especially important. The chief task of the community is to improve conditions for the worker, especially in housing and transportation. For that reason, great emphasis will be placed on renovating houses which have had no repairs since 1939 and on improving the run-down suburban areas.

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